The Repeater

The W6VVR Newsletter

The Newsletter for September 2024

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THE VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625- 0143.

An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988.

General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM See the directions on the last several pages.

Meetings Are Wheelchair Accessible

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A Message from The Editors of The Repeater

Welcome to September!

As I sit here and write this, my mind is all over the place as you will soon see…

I am continuing the training on ICS-200.

I am thinking of Pacificon coming in October.

I am thinking about Morse Code.

I am thinking about the Simulated Emergency Test coming in October.

And hopefully, like all Americans should be, I am thinking about both those who lost their lives in the attacks on this country 23 years ago, as well as their family who still grieve to this day over their losses.

Yes, we have labor day coming up but even that holiday can't take away the gloom of this month and it never should.

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A Message from The President

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the President Servando Miramontes, K6SRV

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A message from the Vice President

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Vice President Dan Martin N6ETR

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A message from the Treasurer

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Treasurer
Bryan Steinberg KB0A

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A Message from the Secretary

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Secretary Mike Rogers KN6MIO

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Meetings recorded by the Secretary

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB MEETING
08/8/2024

I. 1900 Flag Salute.

II. 1905 Discussion about another Swap Meet and equipment at Travis.

III. 1930 Discussion and demonstration about Solar Panels by Servando.

IV. 2100 Meeting Adjourned.

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This Month We Continue Talking About The Basics Of The Incident Command System!

IS-200 – Basic Incident Command System For Initial Response

Due to the length of this course, I will be reviewing it over the next several newsletters. The actual course is taught over a 2 day period, for 8 hours each day.

Part four of ICS200 is Functional Areas and Positions, ICS Forms, and Briefings. This lesson introduces you to ICS organizational components, the Command Staff, the General Staff, ICS tools and Briefings.

The first position we discuss will be the incident commander

The Incident Commander:

Has overall incident management responsibility delegated by the appropriate jurisdictional authority

Develops the incident objectives to guide the Incident Action Planning Process

Approves the Incident Action Plan and all requests pertaining to the ordering and releasing of incident resources

In some situations or agencies, a lower ranking but more qualified person may be designated as the Incident Commander. Whatever their day-to-day position, when a person is designated as the Incident Commander they are delegated the authority to command the incident response.

The Incident Commander performs all major ICS functions unless he or she activates Command or General Staff positions to manage these functions. For example, the Incident Commander would personally perform the Operations function until an Operations Section was activated.

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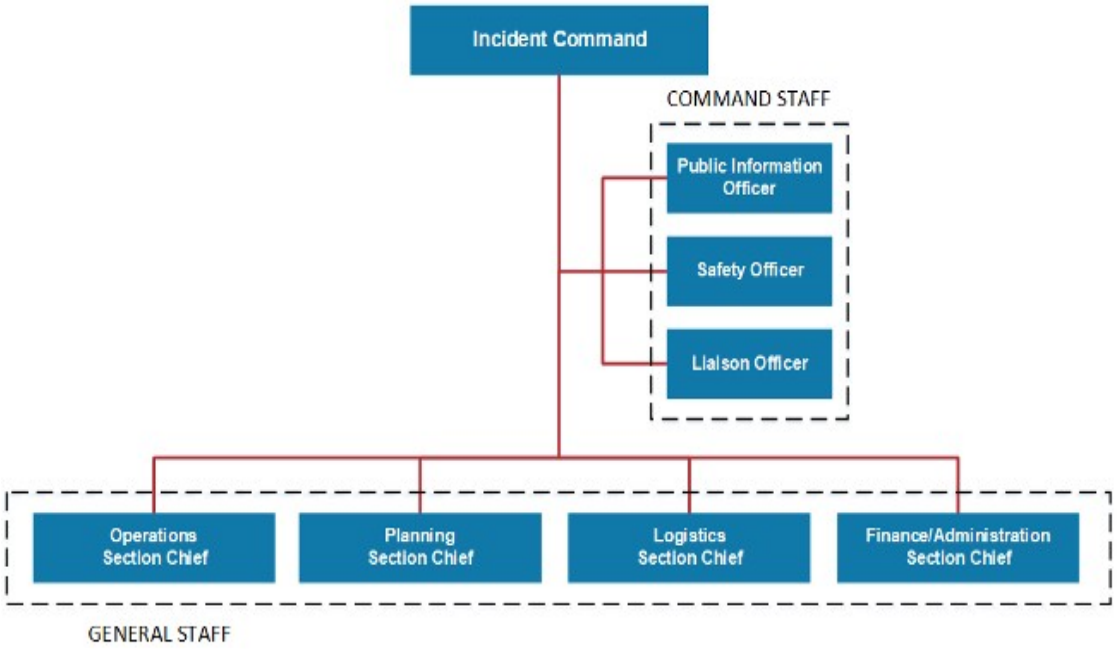

After the Incident Commander, if needed, we have a Deputy Incident Commander.

Deputy Incident Commander:

The Incident Commander may have one or more Deputies. Deputies may be assigned at the Incident Command, Section, or Branch levels.

The only ICS requirement regarding the use of a Deputy is that the Deputy must be fully qualified and equally capable to assume the position.

The three primary reasons to designate a Deputy Incident Commander are to:

Perform specific tasks as requested by the Incident Commander.

Perform the incident command function in a relief capacity (e.g., to take over for the next operational period). In this case, the Deputy will assume the primary role.

Represent an Assisting Agency that may share jurisdiction or have jurisdiction in the future.

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After the Incident Commander we have the Command Staff.

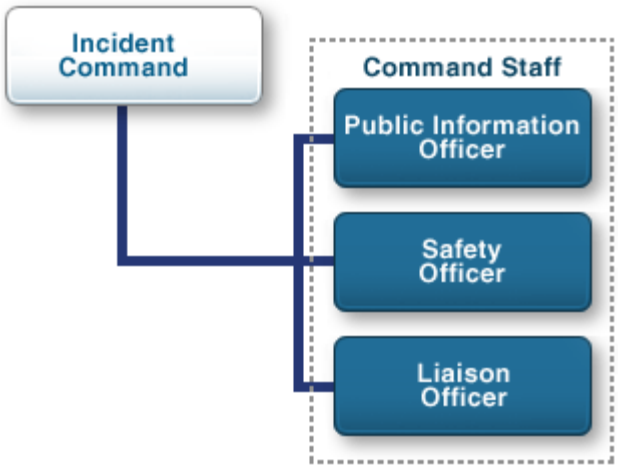
Command Staff:

Command Staff includes the following positions:

Public Information Officer

Liaison Officer

Safety Officer



The responsibilities of the Public Information Officer:

The public Information Officer is responsible for interfacing with the public and media and/or with other agencies with incident related information requirements.

The Public Information Officer develops accurate and complete briefings and releases on the incident's cause, size and current situation; resources committed; and other matters of general interest for both internal and external consumption.

The Public Information Officer may also perform a key public information monitoring role.

Whether the command structure is single or unified, only one incident Public Information Officer should be designated. Assistants may be assigned from other agencies or departments involved.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER MUST APPROVE THE RELEASE OF ALL INCIDENT RELATED INFORMATION.

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The responsibilities of the Safety Officer:

The Safety Officer monitors incident operations and advises the Incident Commander on all matters relating to operational safety, including the health and safety of emergency responder personnel.

Although the ultimate responsibility for safety rest with the Incident Commander and supervisors, the Safety Officer is responsible for establishing systems and procedures to ensure emergency responder safety as well as the general safety of incident operations,.

The safety officer has emergency authority to stop and/or prevent unsafe acts during incident operations.

The Safety Officer, Operations Section Chief, and Planning Section Chief must coordinate closely regarding operational safety and emergency responder health and safety issues.

The Safety Officer must also ensure the coordination of safety management functions and issues across jurisdictions, across functional agencies, and with private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

The responsibilities of the Liaison Officer:

The liaison officer is the point of contact for representatives of other governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations and/or private entities.

Representatives from assisting or cooperating agencies and organizations coordinate through the liaison Officer. Agency and /or organizational representatives assigned to an incident must have all authority to speak for their parent agencies and/or organizations on all matters, following appropriate consultations with their agency leadership.

Assistants and personnel from other agencies or organizations (public or private) involved in incident management activities may be assigned to the Liaison Officer to facilitate coordination.

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The Command Staff is only activated in response to the needs of the incident.

If a Command Staff position is not needed it will not be activated. For example, an incident may not require a Liaison Officer if there are not outside agencies or organizations to coordinate with.

Assistants:

In a large or complex incident, Command Staff members may need one or more Assistants to help manage their workloads. Each Command Staff member is responsible for organizing his or her Assistants for maximum efficiency. Assistants are subordinates of principal Command Staff positions.

As the title indicates, Assistants should have a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions.

Assistants may also be assigned to Unit Leaders (e.g., at camps to supervise unit activities).

Assisting Agency:

An agency or jurisdiction will often send resources to assist at an incident. In ICS these are called assisting agencies.

An assisting agency is defined as an agency or organization providing personnel, services, or other resources to the agency with direct responsibility for incident management.

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Cooperating Agency:

A cooperating agency is an agency supplying assistance other than direct operational or support functions or resources to the incident management effort.

Don't get confused between an assisting agency and a cooperating agency!

An assisting agency has direct responsibility for incident response, whereas a cooperating agency is simply offering assistance.

Agency Representative:

An Agency Representative is an individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency. The Agency Representative is delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident.

Expanding Incidents:

An incident may start small and then expand. As the incident grows in scope and the number of resources needed increases, there may be a need to activate Teams, Units, Divisions, Groups, Branches, or Sections to maintain an appropriate span of control.

The optimal span of control for incident management is one supervisor to five subordinates; however, effective incident management may require ratios different from this. The 1:5 ratio is just a guideline.

The ability to delegate the supervision of resources not only frees up the Incident Commander to perform critical decision-making and evaluation duties, but also clearly defines the lines of communication to everyone involved in the incident.

Next, we'll review the major organizational elements that may be activated during an expanding incident.

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Operations Section:

The Operations Section:

Directs and coordinates all incident tactical operations

Is typically one of the first organizations to be assigned to the incident

Expands from the bottom up

Has the most incident resources

May have Staging Areas and special organizations

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Operations Section Chief

The Operations Section Chief:

Is responsible to the Incident Commander for the direct management of all incident-related operational activities

Establishes tactical objectives for each operational period

Has direct involvement in the preparation of the Incident Action Plan

The Operations Section Chief may have one or more Deputies assigned. The assignment of Deputies from other agencies may be advantageous in the case of multijurisdictional incidents.

Operations Section: Staging areas

Staging Areas are set up at the incident where resources can wait for a tactical assignment.

All resources in the Staging Area are assigned and ready for deployment. Out-of-service resources are NOT located at the Staging Area.

After a Staging Area has been designated and named, a Staging Area Manager will be assigned.

The Staging Area Manager will report to the Operations Section Chief or to the Incident Commander if the Operations Section Chief has not been designated.

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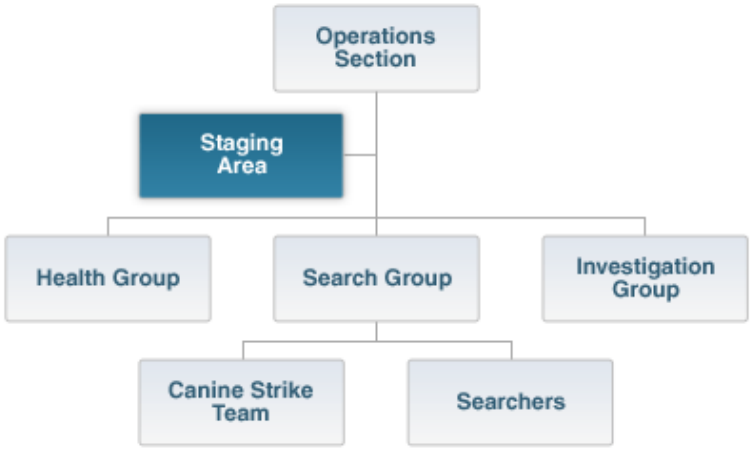
Staging areas: Chain of Command

The graphic below shows where the Staging Area Manager fits into the Operations Section.

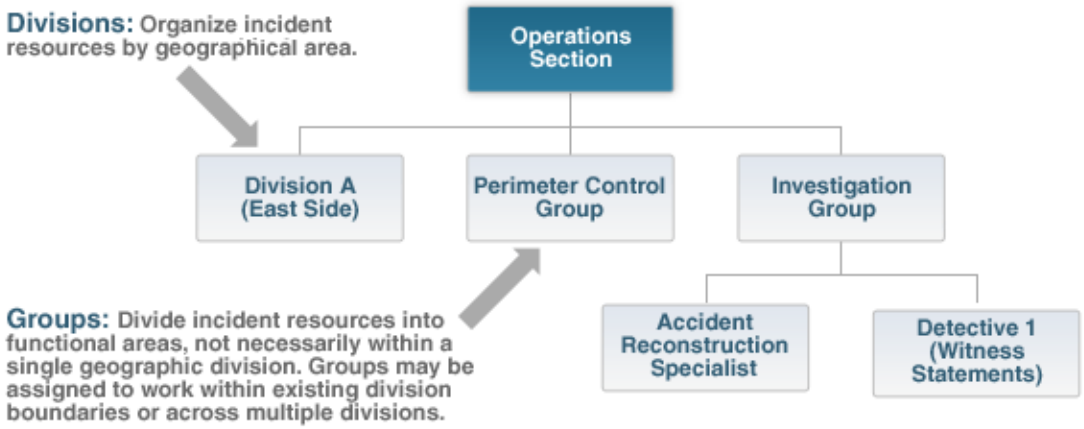


Divisions and Groups:

Divisions are established to divide an incident into physical or geographical areas of operation.

Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation.

For example, a Damage Assessment Task Force, reporting to the Infrastructure Group Supervisor, could work across divisions established to manage two distinct areas of the building that have been damaged the west side of the building (West Division) and the north side (North Division).


Divisions: Organize incident resources by geographical area.
Operations Section
Division A (East Side)
Perimeter Control Group
Investigation Group
Groups: Divide incident resources into functional areas, not necessarily within a single geographic division. Groups may be assigned to work within existing division boundaries or across multiple divisions.
Accident Reconstruction Specialist
Detective 1 (Witness Statements)

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Branches:

Branches may be used to serve several purposes and may be functional or geographic in nature.

Branches are established when the number of divisions or groups exceeds an effective span of control for the Operations Section Chief.

Air Operations Branch:

Some incidents may require the use of aviation resources to provide tactical or logistical support.

On smaller incidents, aviation resources will be limited in number and will report directly to the Incident Commander or to the Operations Section Chief.

On larger incidents, it may be desirable to activate a separate Air Operations Branch to coordinate the use of aviation resources. The Air Operations Branch, will then report directly to the Operations Section Chief.

The Air Operations Branch Director can establish two functional groups. The Air Tactical Group coordinates all airborne activity.

The Air Support Group provides all incident ground-based support to aviation resources.

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Planning Section:

The Planning Section has responsibility for:

Maintaining resource status

Maintaining and displaying situation status

Preparing the Incident Action Plan (IAP)

Developing alternative strategies

Providing documentation services

Preparing the Demobilization Plan

Providing a primary location for Technical Specialists assigned to an incident

One of the most important functions of the Planning Section is to look beyond the current and next operational period and anticipate potential problems or events.

Planning Section Key Personnel

The Planning Section will have a Planning Section Chief. The Planning Section Chief may have a Deputy.

Technical Specialists:

Are advisors with special skills required at the incident

Will initially report to the Planning Section, work within that Section, or be reassigned to another part of the organization

Can be in any discipline required (e.g., epidemiology, infection control, chemical-biological-nuclear agents, etc.)

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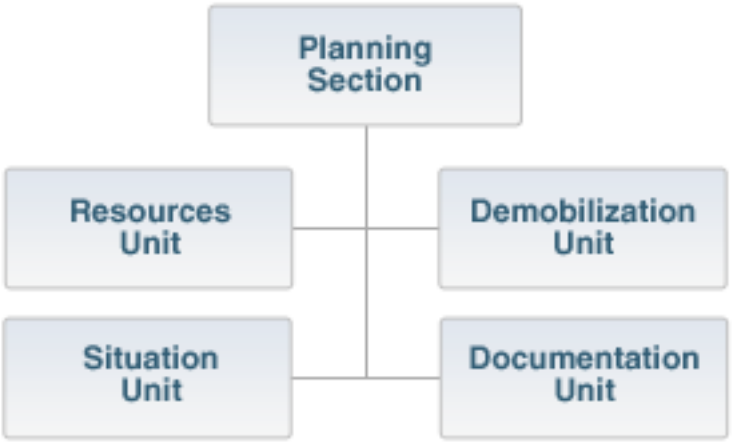
Planning Section Units:



Logistics Unit:

Early recognition of the need for a Logistics Section can reduce time and money spent on an incident.

The Logistics Section is responsible for all support requirements, including:

Communications

Medical support to incident personnel

Food for incident personnel

Supplies, facilities, and ground support

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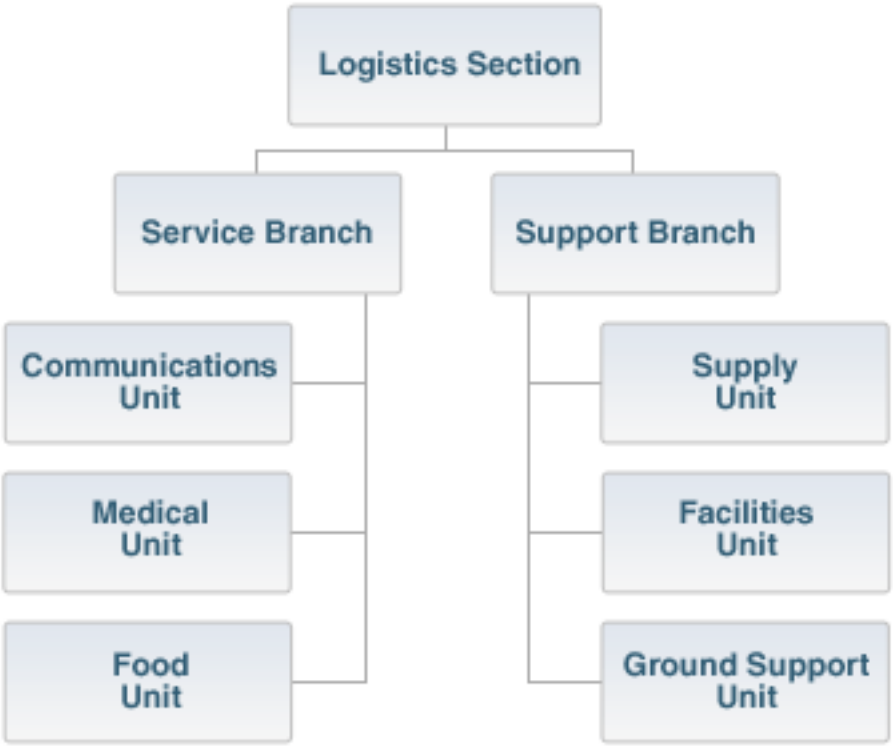
Logistics Section Units:



Logistics Section: Service Branch

The Service Branch may be made up of the following units:

The Communications Unit is responsible for developing plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities, installing and testing of communications equipment, supervision of the Incident Communications Center, distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and maintenance and repair of communications equipment.

The Medical Unit is responsible for the development of the Medical Plan, obtaining medical aid and transportation for injured and ill incident personnel, and preparation of reports and records.

The Food Unit is responsible for supplying the food needs for responder personnel for the entire incident, including all remote locations (e.g., Camps, Staging Areas), as well as providing food for personnel unable to leave tactical field assignments.

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Logistics Section: Support Branch

The Support Branch within the Logistics Section may include the following units:

The Supply Unit is responsible for ordering personnel, equipment, and supplies; receiving and storing all supplies for the incident; maintaining an inventory of supplies; and servicing nonexpendable supplies and equipment.

The Facilities Unit is responsible for setting up, maintaining, and demobilizing all facilities used in support of incident operations. Facilities Unit staff set up the Incident Command Post (ICP), Incident Base, and camps (including trailers or other forms of shelter in and around the incident area), ensure the maintenance of those facilities, and provide law enforcement/security services needed for incident support.

The Ground Support Unit is responsible for supporting out-of-service resources; transporting personnel, supplies, food, and equipment; fueling, service, maintenance, and repair of vehicles and other ground support equipment; and implementing the Traffic Plan for the incident.

Finance / Administration Section

The Finance/Administration Section:

Is established when incident management activities require finance and other administrative support services.

Handles claims related to property damage, injuries, or fatalities at the incident.

Remember that the ICS organizational structure is flexible and scalable to adapt to any situation. Not all incidents will require a separate Finance/Administration Section. If the full Finance/Administration Section is not needed, it would not be activated. When only one specific function is needed (e.g., cost analysis), a Technical Specialist assigned to the Planning Section could provide these services.

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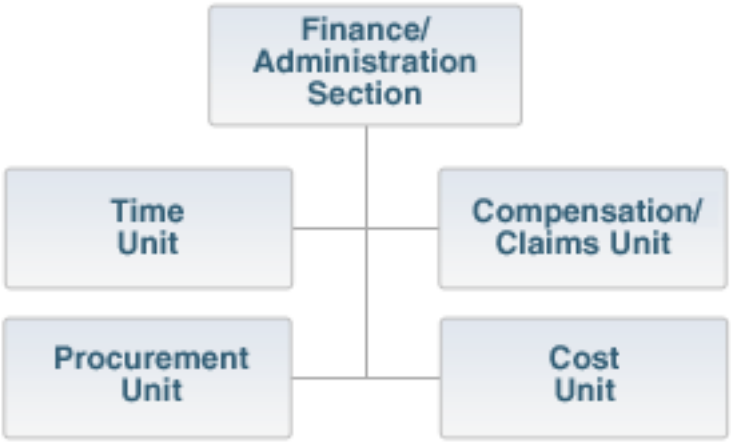
Finance / Administration Units

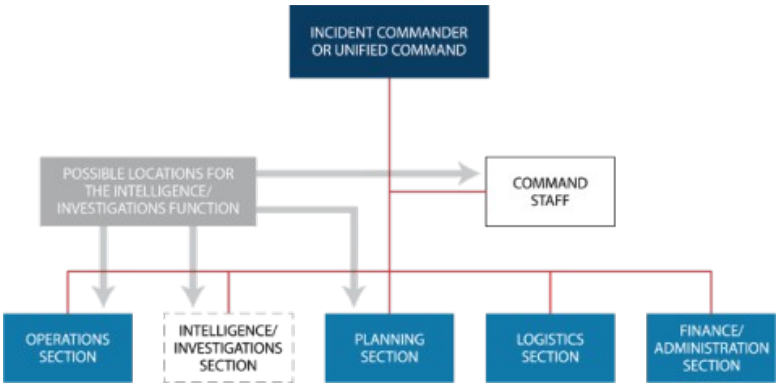


Intelligence/Investigations Function in ICS

Intelligence/Investigations (I/I) is an ICS function identified in NIMS.

When I/I is required for specialized types of responses, the IC/UC can place the I/I function in multiple locations within the incident command structure based on factors such as the nature of the incident, the level of I/I activity, and the relationship of I/I to other incident activities.

The I/I can be placed in the Planning Section, in the Operations Section, within the Command Staff, as a separate General Staff section, or in some combination of these locations.



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ICS Tools

Some important tools you should have available at the incident include:

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) from the affected jurisdiction(s)

Agency policies and procedures manuals for responding agencies

Maps of the affected area

ICS Forms

ICS Forms provide a method of recording and communicating key incident-specific information in a format that is simple, consistent, and supports interoperability. When using each ICS Form, you should ensure that you understand the following about each form:

Purpose What function does the form perform?

Preparation Who is responsible for preparing the form?

Distribution Who needs to receive this information?

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ICS Form 201, Incident Briefing

The Incident Briefing Form (ICS Form 201) is an eight-part form that provides an Incident Command/Unified Command with status information that can be used for briefing incoming resources, an incoming Incident Commander or team, or an immediate supervisor.

The basic information includes:

Incident situation (map, significant events)

Incident objectives

Summary of current actions

Status of resources assigned or ordered for the incident or event

Occasionally, the ICS Form 201 serves as the initial Incident Action Plan (IAP) until a Planning Section has been established and generates, at the direction of the Incident Commander, an IAP.

The ICS Form 201 is also suitable for briefing individuals newly assigned to the Command and General Staffs.

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Incident Command System Forms

Commonly used Incident Command System forms can be found on FEMA's Emergency Management Institute website for ICS Forms:

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute website for ICS Forms

ICS Form 202, Incident Objectives
ICS Form 203, Organization Assignment List
ICS Form 204, Assignment List
ICS Form 205, Incident Radio Communications Plan
ICS Form 206, Medical Plan
ICS Form 207, Organizational Chart
ICS Form 208, Safety Message
ICS Form 209, Incident Status Summary
ICS Form 210, Status Change Card
ICS Form 211, Check-In List
ICS Form 213, General Message
ICS Form 214, Unit Log
ICS Form 215, Operational Planning Worksheet
ICS Form 215a, Incident Action Plan Safety Analysis
ICS Form 216, Radio Requirements Worksheet
ICS Form 217, Radio Frequency Assignment Worksheet
ICS Form 218, Support Vehicle Inventory
ICS Form 220, Air Operations Summary
ICS Form 221, Demobilization Plan
ICS Form 308, Resource Order Form

There is also a form called the T Card, ICS Form 219. It has several variations for checking resources and personnel in and out and keeping track of them.

I would suggest clicking on the link above and looking through the froms that are available for use in an incident.

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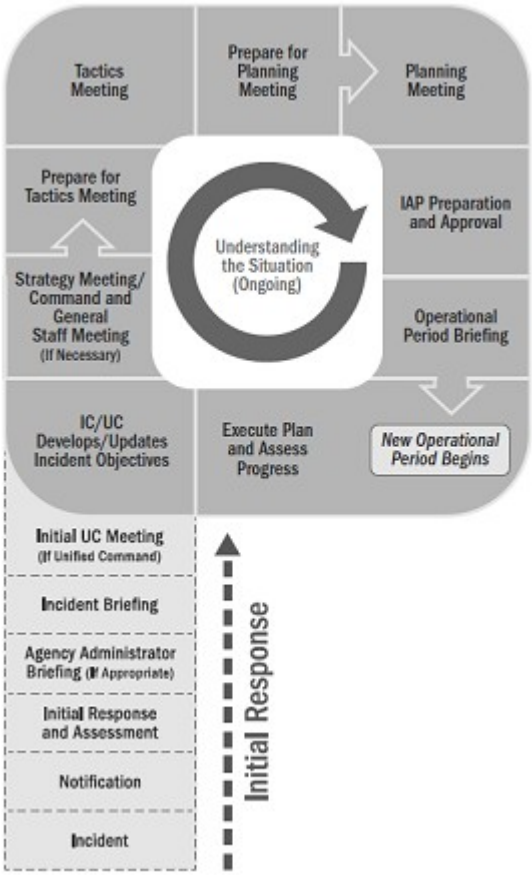
Incident Action Planning Process

The Incident Action Planning Process defines the progression of meetings and briefings utilized to develop the IAP that is used for the Operational Period Briefing.

In addition to these IAP related meetings, there will also be other meetings and briefings within the ICS organization to include section-level meetings and briefings, situation update briefings, and transfer of command briefings.



Effective briefings and meetings

Effective briefings and meetings are:

An essential element to good supervision and incident management.

Intended to pass along vital information required in the completion of incident response actions.

Typically, these briefings are concise and do not include long discussions or complex decision-making. Rather, they allow incident managers and supervisors to communicate specific information and expectations for the upcoming work period and to answer questions.

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Levels of Briefings

There are three types of briefings/meetings used in ICS: staff level, field level, and section level.

Staff-level briefings are delivered to resources assigned to nonoperational and support tasks at the Incident Command Post or Base.

Field-level briefings are delivered to individual resources or crews who are assigned to operational tasks and/or work at or near the incident site.

Section-level briefings are delivered to an entire Section and include the Operational Period Briefing.

Briefing Topics Checklist

Below is a list of topics that you may want to include in a briefing.

Current Situation and Objectives

Safety Issues and Emergency Procedures

Work Tasks

Facilities and Work Areas

Communications Protocols

Supervisory/Performance Expectations

Process for Acquiring Resources, Supplies, and Equipment

Work Schedules

Questions or Concerns

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Staff Level Briefing Topics

Work area

Safety issues and emergency procedures

Specific tasks for the work period

Coworkers, subordinates

Process to obtain additional resources, supplies, and equipment

Shift or work period schedule

Communication protocol within the unit

Expectations:

Meeting attendance and schedule

Quantity and quality of work

Timelines

Schedule for updates and completed products

Field Level Briefing Topics

Work area

Scope of responsibility

Safety issues and emergency procedures

Specific tasks for the work period

Communication channels and protocols

Shift or work period schedule

Coworkers, subordinates, supervisor, and adjoining forces

Expectations

Process to obtain additional resources, supplies, and equipment

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Section Level Briefing Topics

Scope

Section organization

Work site/area/facility layout

Safety issues and emergency procedures

Staff introductions

Section meetings schedule

Process to obtain additional resources, supplies, and equipment

Expectations

Scope of responsibility and delegated authority

Operational Period Briefing

The Operational Period Briefing:

Is conducted at the beginning of each operational period.

Presents the Incident Action Plan for the upcoming period to supervisory personnel within the Operations Section.

Should be concise.

In addition to the Operations Section Chief, the other members of the Command and General Staffs as well as specific support elements (i.e., Communications Unit, Medical Unit) can provide important information needed for safe and effective performance during the operational period.

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Operational Period Briefing: Agenda

The Operational Period Briefing is facilitated by the Planning Section Chief and follows a set agenda. A typical briefing includes the following:

The Planning Section Chief reviews the agenda and facilitates the briefing.

The Incident Commander or Planning Section Chief presents incident objectives or confirms existing objectives.

The Planning Section (Situation Unit Leader) provides information on the current situation.

The current Operations Section Chief provides current assessment and accomplishments.

The on-coming Operations Section Chief covers the work assignments and staffing of Divisions and Groups for the upcoming operational period.

The Logistics Section Chief provides updates on transportation, communications, and supplies.

The Finance/Administration Section Chief provides any fiscal updates.

The Public Information Officer provides information on public information issues.

The Liaison Officer briefs any interagency information.

Technical Specialists present updates on conditions affecting the response (weather, fire behavior, environmental factors)
.
The Safety Officer reviews specific risks to operational resources and the identified safety/mitigation measures.

Supervisors of specialized functions such as Intelligence/Investigations or Air Operations brief on their area (if activated).

The Incident Commander reiterates his or her operational concerns and directs resources to deploy.

The Planning Section Chief announces the next Planning Meeting and Operational Period Briefing, then adjourns the meeting.

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Thats all for this months ICS-200 training. We will continue with the module next month.

It is a lot to take in and the actual course is a 2 day training so I will continue next month.

73

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Should you use Linux instead of Windows?

As of the writing of this, you are capable to use most software on Linux that runs for windows either with a software environment method or directly by programs being made for Linux.

If you search through Linux software you will find numerous amateur radio software that will run directly and provide the same services as a windows version.

The best part is you regain control of your computer and decide what you install and use without automatic updates or having to run the latest software to work.

OH, and with Linux you will never see, “your computer isn’t capable to run this new operating system”

You wont need to buy a new computer to use Linux. You can even use a computer that is more than 10 years old again.

There are all sorts of forums to assist you in making a clean switch or gradually switching over.

Investigate it for yourself.

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The Learning Corner

Lets Learn Morse Code

Why should you learn Morse code??

First of all it is spectrum efficient.

This YOUTUBE Video Explains it very well:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEgrTwjWLf0

At 40 wpm the worst case scenario is about a 1KHz signal.

Most signals are under 500 Hz wide.

The only thing that is narrower than a Morse code signal is a digital signal.

The transmitter and receivers are simple.

In an emergency you can make a simple transmitter using just a few components if you can find a 3.57 KHz crystal from an old television.

You should consider buying a kit and make a few for different bandwidths.
This site has a few different kits available:

https://www.qrpme.com/

This Link list all the kits they have for EACH ham band:

https://qrpme.com/pages/XCVRS.php

Make a few of them and keep them in a get home bag, a car or ust use them understand how they work and what kinds of ranges you can get with them.

In an emergency they might become your only way to communicate.

Continued on the next page.

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When you are trying to learn Morse code it is important to go back to the very basics.

When you were in school, you first learned the letters and what they sounded like individually. After learning the letters and their sounds you were introduced to simple words at a normal speech speed. For example, you were taught T, you were taught H, you were taught E originally. But when you were taught the word "THE" it wasn't pronounced "TTTTHHHHEEEE" it was pronounced at a normal speech speed of "THE".

Morse code is the same way, you can learn it at slow speeds, but then, your mind needs to relearn it every time you try to speed up. And when you are copying code at a slower speed your mind has to concentrate on each letter and then put them together to form a word. By the time you have done that you have missed a letter or word that was being sent after.

However, if you learn Morse code starting quickly at a nominal talking speed, such as 20 WPM, then it is much easier for your mind to understand and accept the characters it is hearing as a complete character, and process words without having to put the letters together.

If you treat Morse code almost as music then you will realize that certain combinations have a rhythm. And if you learn the Morse code at a minimum of 20 WPM you will associate the rhythm of cetain words and be able to decode them much quicker.

A good starting speed for learning Morse code is actually 20 wpm. Yes it does sound fast but if you compare it to holding an actual conversation it isn't.

I have Morse code mp3 files going from 20 wpm up to 45 wpm. Using them after a few days of listening to each character you will realize that you can hear the character easily at those speeds. (Yes, even at 45 WPM your mind will learn characters.)

The files I use are a single character or word with a single letter space between. For example: A A A A. When listening to it at first, yes, it does sound fast. But it wont take your mind long to begin to recognize the letter and actually understand the letter after it being played over and over.

There is a great Morse Code phone application called IZ2UUF for android phones that works very well. You can find it in the google play store. It allows you to use your own text files to make custom practice sessions or let it make them for you.

Continued on the next page.

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The second thing you need to do is practice sending the character as well as receiving it.

I have files with extended space in them to give me time to try and send a character in between what is being sent.

And trust me, if you think you are just going to send as fast as you can receive, think again. Your mind has to LEARN to form the letter and you will make many mistakes as you learn to send the code as fast as you can receive it.

At 20 wpm using a straight key is virtually impossible. You need to use an iambic paddle for speeds faster than about 15 wpm.

There are a many oscillators out there that can use iambic paddles, you jut have to search for them. I would suggest a stand alone oscillator instead of a computer based one since you can take it with you if you want to practice away from the computer.

When learning Morse code as with learning anything, you need a quiet area free of distractions. Trying to learn while driving wont work as your mind is focused on driving and wont concentrate on the sounds and learning them. Being interrupted also wont allow you to learn them as your mind then needs to get back into the learning mode from the distractions.

When you are listening to the files you should only listen to them for about 5 minutes at a time, 10 minutes, if you are also practicing sending at the same time. After 5 minutes your mind starts to get bored and distracts itself with other things. Several 5 or 10 minute sessions throughout the day are more effective than one long 20 or 30 minute session.

When you are studying, give your mind about 5 minutes to clear itself of thoughts so you can concentrate effectively.

For myself I find that if I do sessions about every 2 hours it helps, but each person is different.

The best way to learn the Morse code is to just keep practicing no matter what speed you use to try and learn it.

Continued on the next page.

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MORSE CODE LETTERS

Letter	Morse
A	di-dah
B	dah-di-di-dit
C	dah-di-dah-dit
D	dah-di-dit
E	dit
F	di-di-dah-dit
G	dah-dah-dit
H	di-di-di-dit
I	di-dit
J	di-dah-dah-dah
K	dah-di-dah
L	di-dah-di-dit
M	Dah-dah

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A link to the charts used:
https://morsecode.world/international/morse.html

A link to the entire website:
https://morsecode.world/

Continued on the next page.

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MORSE CODE LETTERS (Continued)

Letter	Morse
N	dah-dit
O	dah-dah-dah
P	di-dah-dah-dit
Q	dah-dah-di-dah
R	di-dah-dit
S	di-di-dit
T	dah
U	di-di-dah
V	di-di-di-dah
W	di-dah-dah
X	dah-di-di-dah
Y	dah-di-dah-dah
Z	dah-dah-di-dit

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A link to the entire website:
https://morsecode.world/

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MORSE CODE NUMBERS

Digit	Morse
0	dah-dah-dah-dah-dah
1	di-dah-dah-dah-dah
2	di-di-dah-dah-dah
3	di-di-di-dah-dah
4	di-di-di-di-dah
5	di-di-di-di-dit
6	dah-di-di-di-dit
7	dah-dah-di-di-dit
8	dah-dah-dah-di-dit
9	dah-dah-dah-dah-di

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https://morsecode.world/

Continued on the next page.

Morse Code Punctuation

Punctuation Mark	Morse
Error (also <HH>)	di-di-di-di-di-di-di-dit
& Ampersand	di-dah-di-di-dit
' Apostrophe	di-dah-dah-dah-dah-dit
@ At sign	di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit
) Bracket, close (parenthesis)	dah-di-dah-dah-di-dah
(Bracket, open (parenthesis)	dah-di-dah-dah-dit
: Colon	dah-dah-dah-di-di-dit
, Comma	dah-dah-di-di-dah-dah
= Equals sign	dah-di-di-di-dah

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Morse Code Punctuation (Continued)

Punctuation Mark	Morse
! Exclamation mark	Dah-di-dah-di-dah-dah
. Full-stop (period)	di-dah-di-dah-di-dah
- Hyphen	dah-di-di-di-di-dah
× Multiplication sign (also x)	dah-di-di-dah
% Percentage (literally 0/0)	dah-dah-dah-dah-dah dah-di-di-dah-dit dah-dah-dah-dah-dah
+ Plus sign	di-dah-di-dah-dit
" Quotation marks	di-dah-di-di-dah-dit
? Question mark (query)	di-di-dah-dah-di-dit
/ Slash	dah-di-di-dah-dit

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Morse Code Prosigns

Prosign	Morse
<AA> New line	di-dah-di-dah
<AR> End of message (also +)	di-dah-di-dah-dit
<AS> Wait (also &)	di-dah-di-di-dit
<BK> Break	dah-di-di-di-dah-di-dah
<BT> New paragraph (also =)	dah-di-di-di-dah
<CL> Going off the air ("clear")	dah-di-dah-di-di-dah-di-dit
<CT> Start copying	dah-di-dah-di-dah
<DO> Change to wabun code	dah-di-di-dah-dah-dah
<KA> Starting signal	dah-di-dah-di-dah
<KN> Invite a specific station to transmit	dah-di-dah-dah-dit
<SK> End of transmission (also <VA>)	di-di-di-dah-di-dah
<SN> Understood (also <VE>)	di-di-di-dah-dit

When Wabun code is intermixed with International Morse code, the prosign DO is used to announce the beginning of Wabun, and the prosign SN is used to announce the return to International Code.

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A link to the charts used:
https://morsecode.world/international/morse.html

A link to the entire website:
https://morsecode.world/

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The Actual International Telecommunications Union Morse Code Specifications

Ever wonder why some of the symbols we use are the way they are?

Well honestly, it is a combination of things…

It starts back when Samuel Morse came up with his Morse code.

Several years later an international version was created in Europe which added for letters with marks called diacritic marks.

That is the version we use to this day.

The I.T.U. now maintains the Morse Code and adjust it as needed.

The specifications can be read at this link:

https://www.itu.int/dms_pubrec/itu-r/rec/m/R-REC-M.1677-1-200910-I!!PDF-E.pdf

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Another Resource

A link to a document about learning Morse Code may be found at Gary Hinson's, G4IFB, website:

https://www.g4ifb.com/FOC_Guide_to_Morse_Code_Proficiency.pdf

He has a little poke at the ARRL problems as well at:

https://www.g4ifb.com/blog-item/arrl-web-woes/

Thank you Gary Hinson for permission to use those links.

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The annual ARRL S.E.T.

During the first weekend of October, the ARRL does the annual Simulated Emergency Test.

It is designed to have people deploy and operate for a day under true field conditions.

It is time to think if you have to deploy, what things you need to have and need.

Look at the ARRL website about previous years S.E.T excersizes to get an idea of what is involved.

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Pacificon is coming! Pacificon is coming!

Pacificon is coming to the San Ramon Marriott hotel.

What is Pacificon???

Pacificon is the West Coast ARRL annual ham radio convention.

There are forums, raffles, sales, kit building, and more!

There is even the Wouff Hong ceremony at midnight Saturday night!

The dates for this year's events are:

October 18 – Antenna Seminar * An additional purchase of $25.00 is required for the day.

October 19 – Breakfast with Gordon West.

October 19 and 20 – Forums from various disciplines within amateur radio.

October 19 – Scouting events

October 19 – Banquet Dinner with Guest Speaker * an additional purchase of $77.00 is required for the meal.

October 19/20 at MIDNIGHT – WOUFF HONG Initiation Ceremony.
Pre-registration is required. And as of the writing of this newsletter there were only 27 spots left open!

October 19 and 20 – Technician license prep class and testing.

October 19 and 20 – Fox hunts throughout the day OUTSIDE.

October 19 and 20 – Kit building sessions.

October 18, 19, and 20 – W1AW/6 Special Event Station right outside in the courtyard area.

Continued on the next page.

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Event Schedule

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2024

7:00 am to 5:00 pm	Registration/Will Call Open	Mt. Diablo/Lobby
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Antenna Seminar	Salon E
11:30 am to 1:30 pm	Cash Sales Lunch	Contra Costa Patio
12:00 Fri to 12:00 Sun Continuous	Special Event Station Hosted by Palo Alto Am. Radio Assoc. (PAARA)	Bishop Ranch Patio
9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Vendor Setup (closed to public)	Salon 1 Salon A-D
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Prize Booth	Hotel Lobby
3:00 am to 6:00 pm	ARRL Booth	Salons A-D
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Vendor Exhibit Halls Open	Salon 1 Salon A-D
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm	Cash Sales Dinner	Hallway Outside Salon E
7:00 pm to ~9:00 pm	Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Meeting (Open to All; Please Join Us)	Salon E
7:00 pm to ~9:00 pm	QRP Building Event and Auction	Pleasanton/Danville
End of MDARC meeting	Prize Drawing	Salon E

Continued on the next page.

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SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2024

6:00 am to 4:00 pm	Registration/Will Call Open	Mt. Diablo/Lobby
7:00 am to 9:00 am	Cash Sales Breakfast	Contra Costa Patio
7:00 am to 8:00 am	Breakfast With Gordo	Salon E
8:00 am to 9:50 am	Ham Instructor Academy by Gordon West	Salon E
8:00 am to 1:00 pm	Ham License Testing	Pacific
8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Outside Displays	Parking Lot
8:00 am to 4:00 pm	Technician One Day License Class (Exam follows)	Tri-Valley 1
8:00 am to 4:00 pm	Scouting Activities. Merit Badges	Salon F; San Ramon Boardroom
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	FORUMS	See Forums Schedule
9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Electronic Kit Building (for youth & adults)	Bishop Ranch Hallway Foyer
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Prize Booth	Hotel Lobby
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	ARRL Booth	Salons A-D
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Vendor Exhibit Halls Open	Salon 1 Salon A-D
10:00 am to 10:50 am	VIP Presentation	Salon E
11:00 am - 11:15 am	Prize Drawing	Prize Booth
11:00 am - 11:50 am	VIP Presentation	Salon E
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	T-Hunting	FOXHUNT Canopy
11:30 am to 1:30 pm	Cash Sales Lunch	Contra Costa Patio
12:00 Fri to 12:00 Sun Continuous	Special Event Station Hosted by Palo Alto Am. Radio Assoc. (PAARA)	Bishop Ranch Patio

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SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2024 (Continued)

1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Prize Drawing	Prize Booth
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	VIP Presentation	Salon E
2:00 to 3:50 pm	YL Forum Dr. Carole Milazzo, KP4MD	Pleasanton/Danville
2:00 pm - 2:50 pm	VIP Presentation	Salon E
3:00 pm -3:50 pm	VIP Presentation	Salon E
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Prize Drawing	Prize Booth
4:00 pm -4:50 pm	VIP Presentation	Salon E
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Ham License Testing	Tri-Valley 1
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm	Banquet Dinner	Salon E
7:00 pm to ~9:00 pm	QRP QSO Party	Pleasanton/Danville
11:35 pm to 1:00 am	Wouff-Hong Initiation Ceremony	Salon 2

Continued on the next page.

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SUNDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2024

6:00 am to 12:00 noon	Swap Meet Hosted by Livermore Am. Radio Klub (LARK)	Parking Lot-Rear
7:30 am to 11:00 am	Registration/Will Call Open	Mt. Diablo/Lobby
8:00 am to 11:50 am	FORUMS	See Forums Schedule
8:00 am to 12:00 pm	Ham Radio 101/201 Beric Dunn K6BEZ and David Witkowski W6DTW	Salon E
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Electronic Kit Building (for youth & adults)	Bishop Ranch Hallway Foyer
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Ham License Testing	Tri-Valley 2
9:00 am to 12:15 pm	Prize Booth	Hotel Lobby
9:00 am to 1:00 pm	ARRL Booth	Salons A-D
9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Vendor Exhibit Halls Open	Salon 1 Salon A-D
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Prize Drawing	Prize Booth
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	T-Hunting	FOXHUNT Canopy
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Cash Sales Lunch	Contra Costa Patio
12:00 Fri to 12:00 Sun Continuous	Special Event Station Hosted by Palo Alto Am. Radio Assoc. (PAARA)	Bishop Ranch Patio
1:00 pm to ~3:00 pm	ARRL Forum	Salon E
End of ARRL Forum	Final Prize Drawings and Grand Prize Drawing	Salon E

For further information, or to register, go to:

http://www.Pacificon.org

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Recurring Club Meetings and Events
September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3 Club Net	4	5 Cow Town	6	7
8	9	10 Club Net	11 Patriot Day	12 Cow Town Club Meeting	13	14 KK6ZJC Ecomm training 1900 hrs
15	16	17 Club Net	18	19 Cow Town Talk like a pirate day	20	21
22 Autumn Equinox	23	24 Club Net	25	26 Cow Town	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Monthly Meetings are held at the Nut Tree Airport Vacaville CA	KK6ZJC can be reached by email at coffeeholic1a@yahoo.com Put ECOMM TRAINING in subject

Continued on the next page.

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Information About Recurring Club Meetings and Events

The club net is at 2000 hours EVERY Tuesday using the W6VVR Repeater:

Receive 145.470 Transmit 144.870 CTCSS Tone 127.3

The Club Cow Town is a general rag chew every Thursday on the W6VVR Repeater.
It starts about 1000-1030 local time using the same frequencies as above,

The monthly Club meeting is always held the second Thursday of the month at the Nut Tree Airport. The meeting starts at 7PM local time and generally runs through about 9PM.
Directions to the meeting can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Every Saturday the same week as the club meeting at 1900 hours local time KK6ZJC will be using zoom to practice passing messages.

Anyone wishing to join in contact KK6ZJC by email at coffeeholic1a@yahoo.com.
Please put ECOMM TRAINING in the subject.

I will generally check my emails right through Saturday night about 1830 hours local time.
After 1915 hours if no one joins the meeting, I shut Zoom down

it is a great way to learn how to pass messages using the ICS-213 form, or practicing sending messages for the general public using the ARRL forms.

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Special Club Meetings and Other Events in the area

I am listing all special events the club is looking for volunteers to assist in, fox hunts, other club swap meets, or events out of the ordinary.

The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club, W^JBT will be hosting their annual “Route 66 On The Air” event September 7-15, 2024 Time: Start: 0001 Z September 7 End: 2359 Z September 15

Visit the website for all the information

https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=15

In October , we have been requested to volunteer and help the city of Dixon with their Dia Del Los Muertos Event

Where: Silveryville Cemetery - 8000 South First Street Dixon (across form the Dixon May Fairgrounds).

When: October 27, 2024 1300-1700hrs PST

Additional Info from Shauna: We are looking for about 12 or 15 operators to act as casual security - guiding people as they come in the entrances and in the parking areas. A couple of people to stroll and just keep an eye on things.

The event is all about respect, honor and remembrance. Families gather at the grave sites of their loved ones, share stories, make offerings, sometimes sing, and build altars.
The priest from St. Peters comes out and does a mass in English and Spanish.
We have mariachi, folkloric, some vendors, and food trucks. Also usually present are the CHP and Solano County Sheriff's office.

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Contest

Below is link to a great contesting website by fellow Amateur Radio Operator Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

https://contestcalendar.com/

The calendar list contest in multiple ways.

It is easy to use and regularly updated.

Hope that it helps you with your contesting!

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The Club Repeater(s)

The Vaca Valley Radio Club sponsors repeaters on several bands.
The club provides some financial support, but the owners provide a substantial portion of the cost of their operation.
The efforts of the owners are greatly appreciated.

The main repeater for the club is:

Call Sign: W6VVR
Output Frequency: 145.470MHz
Input Frequency: 144.870MHz
CTCSS tone (P.L.): 127.3Hz
Offset Frequency: 600KHz
Offset Direction: Minus

Vaca Valley Radio Club Sponsored Repeaters
As Of November 1, 2023

Rptr Out	Offset	P.L.	Call/ Location	Linked Repeaters
145.470	Minus 600 KHz	127.3	W6VVR Mt Vaca	Linked to 441.650 MHz
440.025	Plus 5 MHz	127.3	WV6F Mt Vaca	
441.650	Plus 5 MHz	100.0	N6VLF Fairfield	Linked to 145.470 MHz
145.140	Minus 600 KHz	77.0 DG-ID 00-00	Moderate level	Can operate Yaesu Fusion AMS Can be linked to 145.470 MHz or 441.650 MHz

Visitors are welcome to use the repeaters.

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EchoLink and AllStar Nodes

The Vaca Valley Radio Club operates both an EchoLink and an Allstar Nodes that link to the clubs main repeater on 145.470 MHz on top of Mt Vaca.

NOTE: EchoLink is UP, Allstar node is UP.

Call Sign: W6VVR

EchoLink Node 454312 W6VVR-R

Allstar Node 51094

Visitors are welcome to use the nodes.

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2024 Officers:

President:	Servando Miramontes	K6SRV
Vice President:	Dan Martin	N6ETR
Treasurer:	Brian Steinberg	KB0A
Secretary:	Mike Rodgers	KN6MIO

2024 Board of Directors:

Art Aronsen	WD6BQX
Chris Swanson	KJ6DLF
Mike Gregory	WB6WYF
Will Shaffer	W6SRX

Net Control Operators

1st Week Of The Month	Bob Hawkins	KM6BXZ
2nd Week Of The Month	Chris Swanson	KJ6DLF
3rd Week Of The Month	Frank Garay	KJ6RWQ
4th Week Of The Month	Dan Martin	N6ETR
5th Week Of The Month	Dan Martin	N6ETR

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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Membership	Bryan Steinberg	KB0A
Repeater Trustee	Brian Hagen	KK6BXP
Repeater Committee Chair	Brian Hagen	KK6BXP
Newsletter Editor	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Webmaster	Bryan Steinberg	KB0A
Net Control Coordinator (Filled by the Vice President as per the Club Constitution)	Dan Martin	N6ETR
Activities Committee Chair	Don Preston	KM6INR
Monthly Message Passing Practice Net	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Foxhunt Coordinator		
Bicycle Events Coordinator		
Parade Events Coordinator		
Winter Field Day Committee		
Dixon Mayfair Parade		
June Field Day Committee		
Merriment on Main		
December Meeting		

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Volunteer Positions (Continued)

Winlink Committee Chair

FL-Digi Committee Chair

AREDN Committee Chair

We still have numerous committees that need chairpersons and volunteers for the upcoming year (2024). (See the list above.) They need to be filled for the upcoming year by younger volunteers and those with experience to guide the club forward into the future.

This is your club. You can make it a great club by participating in meetings, events, and nets, or you can watch the club wither away and die from lack of participation by ALL members.

It is in your hands, are you going to watch the club end or are you going to jump in and help steer the club forward to the future?

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Vaca Valley Radio Club, Inc

Membership Application/Renewal Form

November 2019 Dues are payable annually.

New Members Please Fill in All Fields Completely
Renewing Members Please Provide Name and Call Sign, Other Fields *Only if there are changes*

Member Information

FCC Name:_____

Street:_____

Street 2:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip-Code+4:_____

Home Phone:_____

Cell Phone:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Payment Information

Member Dues: $25.00 _____

Additional Family Members: $2.00 _____

Student: $5.00 _____

Repeater Donation: _____

Total:_____$_____

Paid by Check: $_____

Check number: _____

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Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

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Directions To the Monthly Meeting from Fairfield, Suisun City And Other Areas West of Vacaville

Coming from Fairfield: Take Highway 80 East Bound. Take exit 55 Nut Tree Parkway / Allison Drive. Stay to the left and enter the right left turn lane

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Turn left from the right turn lane and stay in the right lane. Be careful not to get back on the highway entrance.

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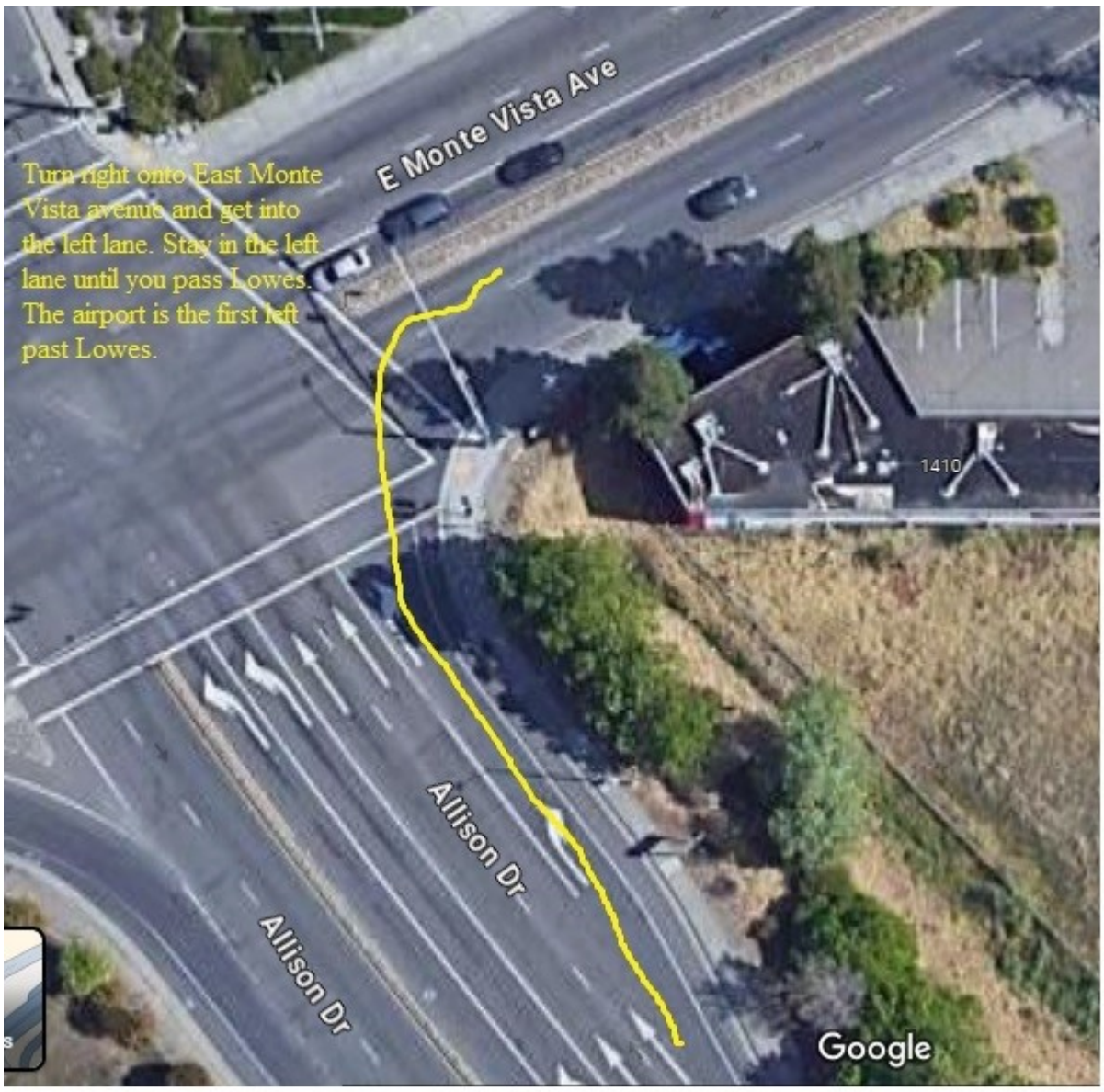
Go over the overpass and make the right turn onto East Monte Vista Avenue.


Turn right onto East Monte Vista avenue and get into the left lane. Stay in the left lane until you pass Lowes. The airport is the first left past Lowes.
E Monte Vista Ave
1410
Allison Dr
Allison Dr
Google

Get in the left lane of E Monte Vista Avenue and drive East until you pass Lowes.

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The airport is immediately past the Lowes Parking lot.

Turn left and drive to the airport parking lot on your right.

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Directions To The Monthly Meeting From Dixon, Sacramento And Other Areas East of Vacaville

Coming West from Dixon take the E Monte Vista Avenue exit, (exit 55)

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Take the Right turn Lane at the exit

Stay in the right lane until the light.

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At the light turn Right and get into the left lane.

After making the right turn, get into the left lane and drive East until you see Lowes.

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Turn left and drive to the airport parking lot on your right.

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